

CLINICAL MEMORANDA.

FUNGUS MEATUS AUDITORII EXTERNI.

IN the JOURNAL for May 23rd, Dr. Cassells calls attention to the existence of fungi in the ear, and mentions three cases as having recently occurred in his practice. In addition to the few cases recorded in England of a form of ear-disease comparatively common in continental hospitals, I may mention one observed by myself amongst the out-patients of the Manchester Ear Institution. The above case—the only one I have yet encountered in public or private practice—was met with in a patient suffering from a cerumenous plug and intense deafness. The form of fungus was that of penicillium—*aspergillus flavus*—the same as Dr. Cassells found in the cases to which he alludes. Unfortunately, the specimen obtained from my patient, and which I had intended mounting microscopically, was lost, and would not have been referred to here, but for the extreme rarity of such records in English medical periodicals.

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DYSPEPSIA, RELIEVED BY OBVIATING THE CAUSE.

M. G., aged 26, single, was first seen in January 7th, 1874. She complained of severe pain in the right hypochondrium and epigastrium, occurring in paroxysms, at times so severe that she hardly knew how to endure herself. It was always worse after eating; in fact, she was afraid to make a meal, lest a paroxysm should be induced. She was troubled much with flatulence. The bowels were very confined. She had passed blood *per rectum* during the last nine months. Her appetite was small and very capricious. The catamenia were regular, but scanty. She was emaciated. The urine was reported to be thick and high-coloured. As the majority of the symptoms had existed for many years, and various medicines had been taken with no beneficial result, it was evidently no ordinary case of dyspepsia. The chest and abdomen were examined carefully, but no trace of disease was detected beyond some slight tenderness over the epigastrium, and some slight dullness at the apex of the right lung. On requesting to see the tongue, which was furred, I noticed that the teeth were much decayed; and, on examining these more closely, I found that no two of the molars opposed each other; there was, in fact, no proper masticating surface, and this seemed quite sufficient to account for the symptoms present. The patient was urged at once to see her dentist, and have the defect remedied. In the meantime, some pepsine wine, with tincture of capsicum and dilute nitric acid, was ordered, and extreme carefulness in diet enjoined. Artificial teeth were inserted in due time, and since then the patient has had no return of her former symptoms. She is now stouter and much healthier in appearance; the bowels are more regular; there has been no recurrence of the hæmorrhage, and the condition generally is one of most marked improvement. She says herself "she has never felt so well in her life; nothing ails her now; she can eat and drink anything".

I have thought the case worthy of record, for I have met with many others where the *Pharmacopœia* has been exhausted in vain—the cause of the malady having never been detected, or even suspected. The narration of this may serve to put others on their guard in dealing with these tedious and troublesome cases.

ARTHUR W. EDIS, M.D., Assistant Obstetric Physician, Middlesex Hospital.

ABSTRACTION OF BROKEN GLASS SYRINGE FROM VAGINA.

ON June 4th, I was called to visit Miss S., aged 20, who, whilst using a glass syringe for injection, felt it snap in two, leaving a piece two inches long by one in diameter in the upper portion of the vagina. It had fractured obliquely, with an irregular outline, the edges being as sharp as a razor. She complained of sharp cutting pains, and begged earnestly that it might be taken from her. I fortunately succeeded in abstracting the offending body, without any injury or pain to the patient, in the following manner. Having first introduced a medium sized tubular speculum, I found the foreign body lying perpendicularly across the vagina, just in front of the os uteri, the sharp cutting edge pressing on the vesico-vaginal septum, which it threatened to pierce. Owing to its position and length, it was impossible to get it into the smaller speculum, which I withdrew, and introduced a larger one. By gently manipulating it up to the fragment, I succeeded, with the aid of a steel rib of an umbrella, in loosening the glass (which fortunately was in one piece) from the folds of the vagina; and it fell into the speculum, and was thus withdrawn, without a scratch or the loss of a drop of blood, to the great delight and comfort of the patient.

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REPORTS OF SOCIETIES.

ROYAL MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY.

TUESDAY, MAY 26TH, 1874.

C. J. B. WILLIAMS, M.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

AMONG the books presented to the Society's library was a MS. copy of the Clinical Lectures of Dr. Rutherford at Edinburgh in 1750. We referred to this subject at page 724 of the JOURNAL for May 30th.

ON A DISEASE OF THE SKIN CAUSED BY THE ACARUS FOLLICULORUM; ILLUSTRATED BY CASES OBSERVED IN THE DOG.

BY EDWARD SPARKS, M.A., M.B., M.R.C.P.

(Communicated by W. FAIRLIE CLARKE, F.R.C.S.)

THE author first reviewed the literature relating to the acarus folliculorum, and pointed out that there had been hitherto nearly an universal scepticism with regard to any injurious effect of that animal on the skin. Only Dr. Gruby (*Comptes Rendus*, 1845, and *Monthly Journal of Medical Sciences*, November 1846) had described a disease produced by inoculating a dog with the acarus, by which the animal lost its hair, and the skin became inflamed and covered with scabs of purulent exudation, while its strength became much reduced. Gruby's researches had, however, never received the credence they deserved, and their accuracy had even been doubted (for example, by Dr. Neumann of Vienna, in 1873). Dr. Sparks had, through the kindness of Mr. Duguid, the veterinary surgeon to the Brown Institution, been enabled to examine three cases of a disease occurring idiopathically in dogs, and similar to that described by Gruby; and he had examined the skin microscopically. The external features of the disease had a considerable resemblance in all three: these consisted of greater or less loss of hair over the whole body; scalliness, partly epidermic and partly exudative; abscesses resembling acne studded over the body and legs; gradual emaciation and loss of strength; and resistance to all treatment. All the dogs finally died, without any internal disease being found sufficient to account for death. Other dogs in the same kennel caught the disease from one of the affected dogs. Sections of the skin showed, microscopically, enormous dilatation of the hair-follicles and sebaceous glands with the acari and epithelial debris; subcutaneous abscesses containing acari, and accompanied with a fine nuclear infiltration of some parts of the skin; atrophy of the papillæ and sheaths of the hair-follicles; and, in one case, growth of nodules of a lymphatic tissue, especially around the coats of the sweat-glands and the hair-follicles most affected. The existence of such a disease as the one here described appeared not to be generally known to veterinary surgeons, and it was not, as far as the author knew, described in any book. Seeing what mischief the acarus could produce in the dog, we should not be too hasty in denying the possibility of its ever causing a disease of the skin in man; and its relation to some forms of acne deserved further investigation. At any rate, it was a most interesting fact that a creature which might exist in man without doing any harm, should produce such a serious disease in the dog. The author concluded this paper by thanking the authorities of the Brown Institution for the assistance they had afforded him.—Mr. FAIRLIE CLARKE remarked that the paper raised the question, whether the acarus folliculorum was, or was not, capable of producing disease in man. It certainly was not harmless in dogs, and might produce in them even fatal results.—Dr. E. S. THOMPSON hoped that more contributions to the explanation of the diseases of man by those of animals would be received from the Brown Institution.—Dr. SPARKS said that, as far as was known, the acarus folliculorum did not produce disease of the skin in man, unless, perhaps, it sometimes gave rise to acne of the face. He had been informed that none of the dogs affected with the disease recovered. The acari penetrated too deeply into the follicles to be reached, and the animals died of emaciation or were killed.

ON A CASE OF PSEUDO-HYPERTROPHIC MUSCULAR PARALYSIS.

BY J. LOCKHART CLARKE, M.D., F.R.S., AND W. R. GOWERS, M.D.

THE case was that of a boy, a patient of Mr. William Adams, who died, aged 14, with general muscular atrophy. The muscles of the calf had been, from an early age and until within two or three years of his death, considerably larger than natural. Difficulty in locomotion, due to muscular weakness, had been noticed from the time when he commenced to walk at three years old, and had increased until he had ceased to walk at eight, and to stand at ten. During the last three years of his life, the calves lessened in size to below the normal, and the muscles of the thighs and arms became atrophied. At the time of his death he could not move the hip, knee, or shoulder